

Serial No. 09/681,099
Filed: January 4, 2001
Page 3 of 15

Examiner: Joseph C. Merek
Group Art Unit: 3727

the addition of a series of bumps, protrusions, or embossments 92 extending outwardly from the exterior surface of the insert portion 20. The bumps 92 function in a manner similar to that of the ribs 82 of the sleeve 80. The bumps 92 abut and depress a portion of the inner surface of the confection cup 14 to retard the tendency of the confection cup 14 to spin relative to the collar 12. The bumps 92 can also be provided on the inner surface 41 of the sleeve 16 such as the annular ribs shown in FIG. 13.

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel claims 53 and 54 without prejudice.

Kindly amend claims 55 and 56 to change their dependency from now canceled claim 53 to new claim 81. A "clean" copy of amended claims 55 and 56 is shown below and a "marked up" version showing the amendments is found in Appendix A.

55. (Amended) The sleeve according to claim 81, wherein the sleeve body tapers in a direction away from the open top.

56. (Amended) The sleeve according to claim 81, and further comprising a friction enhancer provided on the sleeve.

Kindly enter new claim 81 as shown below:

81. (New) A sleeve for a confection cup assembly for mixing the ingredients for a confection, the cup assembly comprising a cup and a collar, the cup having a cup body defining a cup recess with an open top and a closed bottom, and the collar having an insert portion sized to be slidably received within the cup open top and into the cup recess, the sleeve comprising:
a sleeve body defining a sleeve recess for receiving the cup, the sleeve body having a bottom wall for supporting the bottom wall of the cup and a peripheral wall extending from the bottom wall and terminating in an upper edge to define an open top providing access to the sleeve recess, at least one air passage extending through the bottom wall, and at least one longitudinal slot extending through the peripheral wall to permit the sleeve body to be deflected into the sleeve recess and thereby permit the application of a compressive force to the cup when the cup is received within the sleeve recess to frictionally restrain the cup from movement relative to the sleeve body.